

In the Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A computer system for assisting a medical practitioner, comprising:
~~physician comprising~~

~~computer processor means;~~

~~data storage means for storing data;~~

medical practitioner input means for receiving new patient data regarding a patient, a diagnosis regarding the patient, and a treatment plan for the patient from a medical practitioner;

first means for using a portion of the new patient ~~processing data to access a standard diagnosis database to obtain standard diagnosis criteria, for comparing the~~ ~~regarding a patient, a diagnosis regarding the patient, and the treatment a treatment plan for the patient, for comparing the data~~ against known patient data ~~information and against~~ known medical information; and for generating using such data to generate alarms if the diagnosis or treatment plan is inappropriate or and to provide advice regarding the diagnosis or the and treatment plan;

second means for communicating ~~processing data regarding the alarms and advice and for using such data to communicate the~~ alarms, alarms and advice and diagnosis criteria to the medical practitioner ~~physician~~; and

third means for implementing at least a portion of ~~processing data regarding the treatment plan and using such data to implement~~ the treatment plan.

2. (Currently amended) The computer system of claim 1 wherein the first means for ~~processing data~~ comprises

a suggest diagnosis means for accessing ~~processing data using a subset of the patient data to access a suggested diagnosis database to retrieve a suggested diagnosis based on at least a portion of the new patient data;~~ and

a check diagnosis means for ~~processing data for~~ comparing the diagnosis to the suggested diagnosis and for generating an alarm if there is a substantial difference.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently amended) The computer system of claim 1 wherein the treatment plan includes a prescription and the first means ~~for processing data~~ comprises

a get drug data means for retrieving ~~processing data using a subset of the patient data to retrieve~~ from a pharmacy one or more drugs in the prescription ~~prescribed~~ for the patient and from the known patient ~~data storage means an~~ identification of ~~other~~ drugs that the patient is taking; and

an interaction checking means for accessing ~~processing data to access~~ a drug interaction database with (a) the one or more drugs in the prescription ~~prescribed~~ for the patient, (b) the ~~other~~ drugs that the patient is taking, and (c) the prescription, to produce an alarm if there is an indication of an interaction.

5. (Original) The computer system of claim 4 wherein the interaction checking means comprises

mitigating means for suggesting methods to mitigate the interaction; and

alternative recommendation means for suggesting alternative drugs with no interaction.

6. (Currently amended) The computer system of claim 1 wherein the first means ~~for processing data~~ comprises

a get patient data means for retrieving ~~processing data for accessing the data storage means to retrieve stored data regarding the~~ known patient data;

a find treatment means for ~~processing data for~~ accessing a treatment protocol database and using a subset of the new patient data and a subset of the known ~~stored~~ patient data to determine ~~retrieve~~ a recommended treatment protocol.

7. (Currently amended) The computer system of claim 1 wherein the first means ~~for processing data~~ comprises

a get patient data means for retrieving ~~processing data for accessing the data storage means to retrieve stored data regarding the~~ known patient data;

a treatment search means for ~~processing data~~ for accessing a treatment recommendation database and using a subset of the new patient data and a subset of the known stored patient data to determine ~~retrieve~~ a treatment individualization recommendation.

8. (Currently amended) The computer system of claim 1 wherein the diagnosis comprises a prescription and the first means for ~~processing data~~ comprises

a get lab data means for obtaining ~~processing data~~ using a subset of the patient data to ~~acquire~~ laboratory results for the patient from a laboratory;

a find dosage means for ~~processing data~~ for using the laboratory results, a subset of the known patient data, the prescription and new patient data regarding the patient in cooperation with ~~stored on the data storage means to access~~ a recommended dosage database to produce a recommended dosage for the prescription.

9. (Currently amended) The computer system of claim 1 wherein ~~the patient data comprises~~ ~~foods the patient eats~~, the treatment plan comprises a prescription and the first means for ~~processing data~~ comprises

a get drug data means for retrieving ~~processing data~~ using a subset of the patient data to ~~retrieve~~ from a pharmacy one or more drugs prescribed for the patient and from the known patient data ~~storage means an~~ identification of ~~other~~ drugs that the patient is taking and foods the patient typically eats; and

an interaction checking means for accessing ~~processing data~~ to ~~access~~ a drug/food interaction database with (a) the one or more drugs prescribed for the patient, (b) the ~~other~~ drugs that the patient is taking, (c) the prescription and (d) the foods the patient typically eats, to produce an alarm if there is an indication of an interaction.

10. (Original) The computer system of claim 9 wherein the interaction checking means includes a recommendation means for recommending a drug that will not have an interaction.

11. (Currently amended) The computer system of claim 1 wherein the treatment plan comprises a prescription and radiology tests and the first means ~~for processing data~~ comprises a get drug data means for retrieving ~~processing data using a subset of the patient data to~~ retrieve from a pharmacy one or more drugs prescribed for the patient and from the known patient data storage ~~means an~~ identification of ~~other~~ drugs that the patient is taking; and an X-ray compatibility checking means for accessing ~~processing data to access~~ a radiology/drug interaction database with (a) the one or more drugs prescribed for the patient, (b) the ~~other~~ drugs that the patient is taking, (c) the prescription and (d) the radiology tests from the treatment plan, to produce an alarm if there is an indication of an interaction.
12. (Currently amended) The computer system of claim 1 wherein the treatment plan comprises an order for X-rays and the first means ~~for processing data~~ comprises a check X-rays means for obtaining ~~processing data using a subset of the patient data to acquire~~ laboratory results from a laboratory and for accessing an X-ray contraindication database with the laboratory results and the order for X-rays to produce a contraindication and to process the contraindication to produce an alarm.
13. (Currently amended) The computer system of claim 12 wherein the check X-rays means ~~for processing data~~ also processes the contraindication to produce a recommendation.
14. (Currently amended) The computer system of claim 1 wherein the treatment plan comprises a prescription and the first means ~~for processing data~~ comprises a get drug data means for retrieving ~~processing data using a subset of the patient data to~~ retrieve from a pharmacy one or more drugs prescribed for the patient and from the known patient data storage ~~means an~~ identification of ~~other~~ drugs that the patient is taking; and a drug cost means for accessing ~~processing data to access~~ a drug cost database with (a) the one or more drugs prescribed for the patient, (b) the ~~other~~ drugs that the patient is taking, and (c) the prescription, to produce an alarm if there is an indication that the patient is spending more on drugs than is necessary and to make a recommendation for a lower cost drug.

15. (Currently amended) The computer system of claim 1 wherein the first means for ~~processing data~~ comprises a check risks means for accessing ~~processing data using a subset of the patient data to access~~ a risk database ~~data base~~ to produce a risk reduction recommendation for the patient.

16-22. (Cancelled)

23. (Previously amended) The computer system of claim 1 further comprising a personal communicator including a display having

a red alert area, where alarms regarding the potential for a major adverse effect are displayed; and

a yellow alert area, where alarms regarding the potential for a minor effect or need for closer monitoring are displayed.

24-29. (Cancelled)

30. (Previously amended) The computer system of claim 1 wherein the first means has access to one or more of the following:

a suggested diagnosis database;

a standard diagnostic criteria database;

a drug interaction database;

a treatment protocol database;

a treatment recommendation database;

a recommended dosage database;

a radiology/drug interaction database;

an X-ray contraindication database;

a drug cost database; and

a risk database.

31. (Currently amended) The computer system of claim 1 wherein the third means comprises an International Classification of Disease (ICD) ~~ICD~~ determination means for processing a subset of the new patient data, a subset of the diagnosis and a subset of the treatment plan to determine an ICD.

32. (Currently amended) The computer system of claim 1 wherein the treatment plan comprises a prescription, ~~prescription and an order, and the patient data comprises an~~ International Classification of Disease (ICD) ~~ICD~~, and the third means comprises one or more of the following:

a print prescription means for ~~processing data for~~ using the prescription to print a prescription form;

an inform pharmacy means for ~~processing data for~~ using the prescription to inform a pharmacy of the prescription;

a store data means for storing the new ~~processing data to store~~ patient data on a hospital computer;

an enter order means for entering ~~processing data to enter~~ the order in a physician order entry system; and

a save ICD means for saving ~~processing data to save~~ the ICD in a business office.

33. (Currently amended) A computerized method for providing assistance to a medical practitioner ~~physician who has gathered data from a patient, made a diagnosis, and prepared a treatment plan~~, the method being accomplished using a personal communicator, a computer processor coupled to the personal communicator through a communications medium, a data storage medium coupled to the computer processor, and resources coupled to the computer processor, the method ~~comprising~~ comprising:

entering new patient data ~~data, a diagnosis and a treatment plan~~ into the personal communicator;

using a standard diagnosis criteria database and a portion of the new patient data to determine standard diagnosis criteria;

entering a diagnosis and a treatment plan into the personal communicator;

comparing the new patient data, the diagnosis and the treatment plan against known patient data and against a medical database; and

enabling selecting, through the personal communicator, ~~one or more~~ of the following actions ~~based on the comparison~~:

~~implementing~~ initiating implementation of the treatment plan;

displaying the standard diagnosis criteria to the medical practitioner; and

displaying an alarm and a recommendation, and allowing the medical practitioner ~~physician~~ to revise the diagnosis and treatment plan.

34. (Currently amended) The method of claim 33 wherein implementing the treatment plan comprises one or more of the following

printing a prescription;

informing a pharmacy of the prescription;

storing the new patient data, the diagnosis, and the treatment plan on a hospital computer;

entering an order into a physician order entry system; and

saving an ICD in a business office.

35. (Cancelled)

36. (Currently amended) The method of claim 33 wherein the step of comparing comprises performing one or more of the following actions:

checking the accuracy of the diagnosis;

reviewing standard diagnostic criteria;

checking the appropriateness of prescribed medication;

reviewing recommended treatment protocols;

reviewing individualization recommendations;

recommending dose adjustments;

checking for adverse medication interactions;

checking for adverse food interactions;

checking for adverse medication/radiology interactions;

- checking for X-ray contraindications;
- checking the cost of prescribed medications;
- transferring clinical notes to medical records;
- reviewing standard immunization protocols; and
- recommending routine screening measures.

37. (Original) The method of claim 34 further comprising accepting clinical notes regarding the patient.

38. (Original) The method of claim 37 wherein accepting the clinical notes comprises recording a spoken rendering of the clinical notes.